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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063031

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH KIM TAE CHUNG

SUMMARY: AT KIM TAE CHUNG'S REQUEST HE MET WITH EA/ K RANARD FOR LUNCHEON CONVERSATION APRIL 3. CONVERSATION FOCUSED ON DISMISSAL YUN PIL YUNG WHO KIM BELIEVED HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACT AGAINST LEE HU RAK AND PAK CHONG KYU AND POSSIBLY PARK CHUNG HEE, AND ON KIM'S PERSONAL PLANS WHICH APPARENTLY ARE INDEFINITE BUT FOR TIME BEING HE WILL REMAIN IN U. S.

1. KIM DEVOTED MAJOR PART OF CONVERSATION TO YUN'S DISMISSAL. KIM'S REMARKS WERE PUT FORWARD WITH DIRECTNESS AND CONSISTENCY AND WITH INTERMITTENT ATTRIBUTIONS TO SOURCES IN JAPAN. WHILE NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR, HIS REMARKS WERE INTENDED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION HE BELIEVED THAT YUN WAS INVOLVED IN ACTIONS WHICH, HOWEVER ORGANIZED OR MOTIVATED, WERE CONSTRUED BY PARK CHUNG HEE AS DIRECTED AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT.

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2. KIM BELIEVED YUN' S RELATIONS WITH LEE HU RAK HAD BECOME STRAINED FOR REASONS WHICH REMAINED VAGUE. KIM CHONG PIL, WHILE STANDING TO GAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH DAMAGED LEE HU RAK, HAD NEVERTHELESS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTIVE ROLE IN EPISODE BUT HAD STOOD ASIDE THROUGHOUT. KIM THOUGHT THIS

WAS IN PART DUE TO KCP' S ILLNESS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER KCP' S ILLNESS WAS MORE POLITICAL THAN REAL, KIM WAS EMPHATIC: KCP HAS KIDNEY TROUBLE AND HAD WANTED TO GO TO JAPAN FOR TREATMENT BUT PARK HAD REFUSED HIM PERMISSION WHILE THERE WERE INTERNAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH YUN' S DISMISSAL.

3. SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS, ACCORDING TO KIM, HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY THE LOWENSTEIN- MOOSE REPORT ON KOREA AND HAD COMPARED IT IN SIGNIFICANCE TO THE 1959 CONLON REPORT (SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH MORE THAN ANY OTHER U. S. GOVERNMENT REPORT OF THAT PERIOD REVEALED AUTHORITARIANISM AND CORRUPTION OF RHEE GOVERNMENT). THEY FEARED THAT IT SIMILARLY SIGNALLED U. S. DISAPPROVAL WITH THE PARK GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS INDICATED A LESSENING OF U. S. MILITARY SUPPORT AND ASSURANCE. THESE LEADERS ATTEMPTED TO GET THEIR VIEWS TO PARK THROUGH YUN DESPITE THE WIDESPREAD DISLIKE FOR HIM IN THE ARMY, OR YUN ESPOUSED THEIR VIEWS AS HIS OWN.

4. YUN, ACCORDING TO KIM, WENT TO PARK ON MARCH 5 AND TOLD HIM RELATIONS WITH THE U. S. WERE DETERIORATING AND THAT HE HAD TO TAKE A SERIES OF STEPS WHICH KIM COULD NOT SPECIFY, TO PLACATE THE U. S. AND REMOVE LEE HU RAK AND PAK CHONG KYU WHO THE ARMY BELIEVED WERE THE CHIEF INSTRUMENTS OF CORRUPTION IN THE ROK. YUN HAD INDICATED HE HAD POSITIONED PEOPLE IN HIS COMMAND AND WAS PREPARED TO MOVE, IF PARK APPROVED. KIM WAS EMPHATIC THAT YUN WAS PREPARED TO ACT AND THAT THIS WAS THE REASON FOR PARK' S DRASTIC, SWIFT AND THOROUGH REACTION. HE DISMISSED THE NOTION THAT PARK WOULD HAVE TAKEN SUCH STEPS IF YUN' S OFFENSE HAD BEEN LIMITED TO INDISCRETION OR EVEN OF ESTABLISHING HIS OWN POWER BASE, ARGUING THAT YUN' S RELATIONS WITH PARK WERE TOO CLOSE FOR THAT.

5. ABOUT HIS OWN PLANS KIM WAS VAGUE. HE SAID THAT WHILE
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IN JAPAN HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY FRIENDS NOT TO RETURN TO

KOREA. HE HAD ESTABLISHED A LIAISON OFFICE IN JAPAN AND INTENDED TO DO THE SAME HERE WHERE HE COULD TALK TO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE KOREAN COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO CANADA AND EUROPE.

6. IN OTHER DISCUSSIONS KIM TOOK HIS FAMILIAR POSITION THAT POPULAR SENTIMENT WAS AGAINST PARK, THAT THE KOREAN ECONOMY WAS BASICALLY UNSOUND AND THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PARK' S DOWNFALL. AT ONE POINT HE PASSED ON THE OBSERVATION THAT JAPANESE SOURCES DID NOT BELIEVE PARK' S GOVERNMENT WOULD LAST OUT THE YEAR.

7. IT IS CLEAR THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY KIM REGARDING SIGNIFICANCE OF YUN AFFAIR REPRESENT LINE HE WILL BE ADOPTING HERE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESS AND PUBLIC TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM THAT PARK GOVERNMENT IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. ON SAME DAY KIM MADE ABOVE COMMENTS SIMILAR LINE APPEARED IN WASHINGTON STAR ARTICLE " CRITICS HERE SEE PARK' S REGIME SINKING" BY CROSBY NOYES. ROGERS

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